

(19) World Intellectual Property
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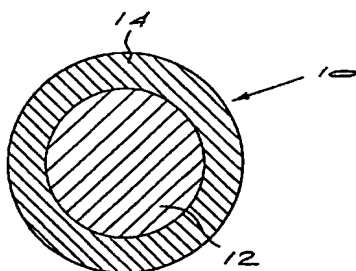
(43) International Publication Date
13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/040029 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C22C 26/00, B22F 7/06, B01J 3/06, B24D 3/06, E21B 10/56
- (74) Agents: DONALD, HEATHER, June et al.; Spoor & Fisher, PO Box 41312, 2024 Craighall (ZA).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2003/004788
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 29 October 2003 (29.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
2002/8731 29 October 2002 (29.10.2002) ZA
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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- Published:
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: COMPOSITE MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: A composite material comprises a plurality of cores of material selected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, cemented carbides, cemented nitrides, cemented carbonitrides and mixtures thereof, dispersed in a matrix. The matrix comprises the components for making an ultra-hard material, such as diamond or cBN abrasive particles, and a suitable binder. The ultra-hard material is polycrystalline in nature and is typically PCD or PcBN. The cores are typically provided as individual particles or in the form of granules. The granules may be further coated with a second coating, which may be a similar material to that of the cores or of an ultra-hard material of a different grade to that of the first coating. The composite material typically takes on a honeycomb structure of a hard material and cores within the pores of the honeycomb structure bonded to the honeycomb structure. The pores of the

honeycomb structure may be ordered or random. A method of producing the composite material and a method of producing a tool component incorporating such a material are also provided.